

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

Archaeology Volunteer Position Description

This position is primarily on-site at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, and is under the Cultural Resources Division. Cultural Resources provides hands-on training and educational services to individuals and groups in relationship to cultural resources management, specifically archaeology, curation and museum practice. This position is year-round and includes both lab work and field work. There is an hours worked requirement in the lab before the volunteer is eligible for field work. Occasionally volunteers will have the opportunity to participate in lab and/or field work off-site.

Responsibilities and Duties

- Perform lab work as required, including but not limited to: sorting, cleaning and analysis of artifacts, and recording results.
- Data entry (optional).
- Archaeological field work, including but not limited to: pedestrian survey, mapping, shovel probes, shovel tests, data recovery units, screening and field sorting of artifacts. Equipment set-up and clean-up and recording results are optional.

Knowledge and Abilities Required for the Position

- No previous experience is necessary, however, volunteers must perform at least 100 hours of lab work in affiliation with the Fort Vancouver Cultural Resources Division before being eligible to volunteer for Fort Vancouver field work projects.
- Volunteers must review and sign an Ethics Statement, indicating their understanding of, and agreement with, the ethical practices related to Cultural Resources Management.
- Minimum age for volunteers is 18. High school students may be allowed to volunteer on specific, school-related projects. Decisions as to the appropriateness of an individual who is under 18 volunteering for the Cultural Resources Division are made on a case-by-case basis.

Supervision

Volunteer works under the supervision of National Park Service archaeologists, curation staff, and university Research and Teaching Assistants.

Guidelines

Guidelines include established National Park Service procedures, program objectives, interpretation guidelines, legislative mandates, management policies, park practices and supervisory guidelines. Volunteer exercises judgment in identifying problems and reporting to supervisor.

Complexity and Scope

Requirements of volunteer in this position are straight-forward, and do not include a knowledge of interpretation technique, history, or archaeology. However, see Knowledge

and Abilities above. Volunteer will be interacting with National Park Service staff, university students, Park visitors and other volunteers.

Work Environment

Lab Work: Work may be conducted either outdoors or indoors. Cleaning and analysis of artifacts is often tedious, and requires good eyesight. There is some light to medium weight lifting. Legible handwriting is required. Cleaning of certain objects creates “dust.” Breathing masks and lab coats are available, however, skin and clothing may become soiled.

Field Work: Excavation work is conducted outdoors, possibly in challenging environmental conditions. Terrain may be uneven. Temperatures may vary widely, rain is possible. There is some medium-weight lifting (screens full of sediment, full 5 gal. buckets, etc.). Sleeping and eating outdoors with personal equipment may be required.

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